

STATINTL

# RED SPIES: THINGS LOOK BLACK

*A full report on the background of the Penkovsky trial and its effect on Soviet spying is in the Forum section of today's paper.*

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## WASHINGTON.

A son of one of the top Russian intelligence chiefs is among more than 300 Soviet intelligence men summarily recalled for "consultation" and possible purge in Moscow, the Herald Tribune learned last night.

Careful investigation in Western capitals shows that the recall of Russian intelligence agents, whether or not cloaked as "diplomats," is continuing. It is the result of the trial and execution of Soviet Col. Oleg Penkovsky in Moscow, accused of being a double agent and leaking information to the West.

The sudden disappearance of Soviet agents from world assignments has caused the Kremlin to authorize the statement that they are going home to Russia because of sickness in their families. Western intelligence men wryly remark that the "sickness" must be epidemic.

### Recall in Finland

Summarily recalled from a post with the Soviet air line Aeroflot in Helsinki, Finland, was Vladimir Serov, son of Ivan Serov, one of the top Soviet intelligence chiefs, at least one of its front men. The father has been demoted in Moscow, and according to some reports is under arrest.

Best information available here from sources abroad is that Col. Penkovsky was executed, as the Russians themselves reported, despite some reports that the whole affair may have been an elaborate hoax and that the colonel was not shot.

One version of this story is

that he never in fact existed—that he was a "plant" on Western intelligence operatives of the British, French and American services. It can be stated with considerable authority that these reports are not true.

Among those recalled for "consultation" have been at least two from the Russian Embassy here and a man and woman from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa.

### Embassies Involved

New information last night indicated that even Soviet ambassadors may not be spared from the possible purge which is apparently shaking the entire Russian intelligence apparatus. Mexico City long had been a center for the direction of Russian espionage in Latin America, until Castro came into power in Cuba.

However, the Soviet ambassador to Mexico, Semen Bazarov, whose service there has been relatively brief, has told friends that he, too, has been summoned back to Moscow.

Best information here is that the Soviet concern over penetration of its intelligence services is part of a larger power struggle within the Soviet Union.

This is between the hard-nosed military men who would just as soon start war now, and more moderate civilian leaders who favor the long-range Communist policy of avoiding war on the theory democracies will exhaust themselves and fall prey to Communist states ultimately, without military action except pressure in fringe areas. Cuba, of course, is a case in point.

Significant in the wholesale

recall of Soviet attaches and agents is that few, if any, have been ousted by their most governments. They are being called back by their own government and sources around the world find they are considerably worried about their fate. A purge could mean the firing squad or a more painful death.

Scores of Soviet and satellite "diplomats" have been recalled from or eased out of Washington and United Nations headquarters in New York in the last ten years. But the official record shows only 51 expelled or excluded from reentry, 40 of

them from the USSR and 11 from satellite countries.

The box score for the decade shows 19 Soviet Union "diplomats" declared persona non grata, four dismissed or denied accreditation to the UN, two "informally" requested to leave, and 15 excluded from re-entry.

Among the satellite countries, nine "diplomats" were declared persona non grata, one informally requested to leave, and one denied reentry.

As previously reported, the FBI at any given moment has about 100 Soviet and satellite "diplomats" under some kind of surveillance.